



**PROCLAMATION HONORING
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2020**

WHEREAS, African Americans have played significant roles in the history of economic, cultural, spiritual and political development while working tirelessly to maintain and promote their culture and history; and

WHEREAS, the observance of African American History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's observance, "African Americans and the Vote," coincides with the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote. This Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1870, prohibits the government from denying or abridging a citizen's right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Today, this guarantee is enforced primarily throughout the Voting Rights Act of 1965, an enduring legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, much of the city of West St. Paul's honor, strength and stature can be attributed to the diversity of cultures and traditions that are celebrated by the residents of this city; and

WHEREAS, the City of West St. Paul includes diversity and inclusion as one of its strategic initiatives and is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, throughout our state, and our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor David J. Napier, and members of the City Council of the City of West St. Paul do recognize and hereby proclaim February 2020 as

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

and encourage all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of West St Paul, Minnesota, to be affixed on this 10th day of February 2020.

David J. Napier, Mayor